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—Associated Press Wirephoto

DAVID LEWIS
Fears for his life

JFK Probe Missing Tipster Is Back

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 23 (UPI) — A former investigator who claimed to know four conspirators in a 1963 plot to assassinate President Kennedy dropped out of sight early today, but later showed up at Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's office.

David Lewis, 26, met newsmen briefly, to say David W. Ferrie, 49, an eerie-looking former Eastern Airlines pilot found dead in his apartment Wednesday, was not one of the "possible members of the plot."

Lewis said previously he had given Garrison four or five names of persons involved in the conspiracy, and as a result feared for his life.

He dropped out of sight with his wife and four children last night, but reappeared at the district attorney's office late this morning.

He refused to say anything other than that Ferrie was not one of the group he knew.

Lewis, was a private investigator who came in contact with Le Harvey Oswald several times during Oswald's six-month 1963 stay in New Orleans.

Lewis, when Garrison's controversial investigation erupted last week, was employed as a shipping agent at a bus line.

Lewis said Monday he feared for his life. He was the one who told the press that he had given Garrison names of four or five persons he knew to be linked in what he felt was a conspiracy to assassinate Kennedy.

Lewis would not clarify why, or under what circumstances, he knew Oswald in the weeks before the Dallas assassination. He would only say he was a private investigator then.